

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the application.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-25 would be pending. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6 and 8-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sogard (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0235682). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sogard.

Independent claims 1 and 5, as amended, are directed to an arrangement including a temperature controlling mechanism disposed across from a region of the optical element for absorbing heat to cool the region.

Turning to the Sogard reference, this reference shows a cooling means (not shown) which includes one or more circulating channels that extend through the element body of the optical element 28. That is, as best understood, the cooling means is part of the optical element 28. In contrast, in claims 1 and 5, the temperature controlling mechanism (as noted above) is not integrated with the optical element, but rather is disposed across from a control region of the optical element for absorbing heat (e.g., heat sink) to cool the region. Thus, Sogard does not appear to disclose or suggest at least the above-noted feature.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 5 and their dependent claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited reference.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

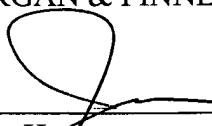
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5341.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5341.

Dated: 3/3/06

By:

Respectfully submitted,
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